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ABSTRACT

Data on child abuse and neglect in Illinois during fiscal year 1986 are collected in this report. Statistical highlights indicate that in 1986 a total of 70,422 Illinois children were reported as victims of child abuse or neglect: a rate of 21.7 alleged victims per 1,000 children. Credible evidence indicated that 33,959 children were abused or neglected: a rate of 10.5 victims per 1,000 children. Credible evidence of abuse or neglect was found for 48.2 percent of all reported victims. Of all actual victims, 75 percent were abused or neglected by natural parents. More than two-thirds of all children involved in reported cases were 9 years of age or younger. A record 181,548 calls were received at the State Central Register child abuse hotline. Of all reports received, 60 percent were made by persons required by law to report. The number of children taken into protective custody was 5,956, which was a 7.1 percent decrease over fiscal year 1985. There was a 48 percent increase in substantiated child fatality reports. The report also covers: (1) the use of the State Central Register; (2) results of investigations in terms of status of reports, fatalities, sexual abuse reports, perpetrators, and service delivery; (3) program goals for 1987; and (4) preventive programs. (RH)

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Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics

Annual Report - Fiscal Year 1986

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

PS 017591

STATE OF ILLINOIS
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About This Report . . .

This is the Child Abuse and Neglect Statistical Report of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for fiscal year 1986. It presents a comprehensive picture of the problem in Illinois—its scope, nature, and seriousness—and of what the Department is doing to protect the state's children who are at risk.

In our efforts to assure the safety of these children, the Department has in the past several years implemented major improvements in the state system of reporting and tracking suspected cases of abuse and neglect. We have strengthened local investigation teams around the state, promoting an efficient, compassionate response to reports. Also, in view of a dramatic rise in the 1980s of reports of sexual abuse, the Department has established innovative programs designed to protect children as much as possible from further trauma while cases are investigated. There is a special section on sexual abuse in this report.

I urge you to study the report carefully, whether you do so as a concerned professional, a student, or a private citizen. In the past few decades we have seen increased societal awareness of child abuse and neglect, awareness which has been the impetus behind a concerted attack on the problem. It is my belief that such awareness, coupled with understanding, is the key to better protection of children and improved services for their families.

Gordon Johnson

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Statistical Highlights

- In fiscal year 1986, 70,422 Illinois children were reported as victims of child abuse/neglect—a rate of 21.7 alleged victims per 1,000 children. (p. 1)

- Credible evidence was found that 33,959 children were abused and/or neglected—a rate of 10.5 victims per 1,000 children. (p. 2)

- Credible evidence of abuse and/or neglect was found for 48.2 percent of all reported victims. (p. 2)

- Of all indicated victims, 75 percent were abused or neglected by natural parents. (p. 23)

- More than two-thirds of all children reported were nine years of age or younger. (p. 5)

- A record 181,548 calls were received at the State Central Register child abuse hotline. (p. 7)

- Of all child abuse/neglect reports, 60 percent were made by persons required by law to report—"mandated reporters." (pp. 9, 16)

- The number of children taken into protective custody was 5,956. (p. 13) This was a 7.1 percent decrease over fiscal year 1985.

- Illinois experienced a 48 percent increase in substantiated child fatality reports. (p. 19)

I. Nature of the Problem

A. Definitions

The Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (P.A. 81-1077, effective July 1, 1980), the state's most recently enacted child abuse and neglect law, defines an "abused child" as:

- a child whose parent or immediate family member, or any person responsible for the child's welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the child, or a paramour of the child's parent
  - a. inflicts, causes to be inflicted, or allows to be inflicted upon such child physical injury, by other than accidental means, which causes death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
  - b. creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such child by other than accidental means which would be likely to cause death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
  - c. commits or allows to be committed any sex offense against such child, as such sex offenses are defined in the Criminal Code of 1961, as amended, and extending those definitions of sex offenses to include children under 18 years of age;
  - d. commits or allows to be committed an act or acts of torture upon such child; or
  - e. inflicts excessive corporal punishment.

A "neglected child" according to the law means:

- any child whose parent, or other person responsible for the child's welfare does not provide the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, or medical or other remedial care recognized under State law as necessary for a child's well-being; or other care necessary for his or her well-being, including adequate food, clothing and shelter; or who is abandoned by his or her parents or other person responsible for the child's welfare.

II. Magnitude of the Problem

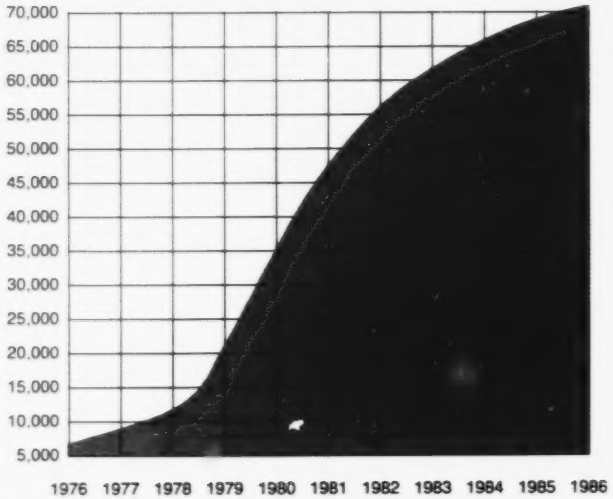
A. Historical Perspective

The number of Illinois children reported as victims of child abuse and neglect has increased enormously during the past 10 years. Fewer than 3,000 children were reported in fiscal year 1975, compared to nearly 70,000 children in fiscal year 1985.

B. Report Volume During Fiscal Year 1986

During state fiscal year 1986 (July 1, 1985 to June 30, 1986), 70,422 Illinois children were reported

Table 1
Increase of Children Reported as Abused or Neglected
Fiscal Years 1976 through 1986



Fiscal Year	Children Reported	Percent of Increase From Previous Year
1976	6,734	141.1%
1977	9,183	36.4%
1978	13,453	46.5%
1979	24,807	84.4%
1980	37,476	51.1%
1981	51,548	37.5%
1982	59,194	14.8%
1983	63,432	7.2%
1984	67,058	5.7%
1985	69,627	3.8%
1986	70,422	1.1%

as victims of child abuse and/or neglect. Illinois had a "reporting rate" in fiscal year 1986 of 21.7 alleged victims per 1,000 children (Table 2). In other words, about two percent of all Illinois children under 18 years of age were reported during the fiscal year as victims of suspected abuse and neglect.

Investigations conducted by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) found that abuse or neglect allegations for 33,959 of the reported children were "indicated"—that is, credible evidence was gathered which would cause a reasonable person to believe a child was abused or neglected. Illinois had an "indicated rate" during fiscal year 1986 of 10.5 children per 1,000 children under 18 years of age. Less than half of all reported children were found to have been actually abused or neglected.

Figure 1 shows comparative figures on child abuse and neglect reports and reporting rates for the state's eight service regions for fiscal year 1986. The Chicago and Aurora regions, the two most populous regions in the state, have the lowest reporting rates (Table 3).

Reporting rates nationwide tend to be higher in rural areas than in urban and suburban areas.[1] Suburban areas tend to have the lowest reporting rate. Table 4 provides data showing distribution of reports by Illinois county for the past four fiscal years and the reporting rate per 1,000 of each county's child population (0-18 years).

Nineteen Illinois counties have a population in excess of 100,000. The average reporting rate in these urban counties is 23.1 children per 1,000. In 14 rural counties with populations of less than

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *The National Study of the Incidence and Severity of Child Abuse and Neglect*, Publication No. (OHDA) 81-30325, issued September 11, 1981.

Table 2
Reporting Rates in Illinois
Fiscal Year 1986

Children under 18 years of age	3,243,037*	**Indicated Reports**	
Reports to the State Central Register		**Indicated family reports**	**20,143**
Family reports to SCR	41,498	Victims with indicated allegations	33,959
Alleged victims listed in reports	**70,422**	**Percent of family reports indicated**	**48.5**
Reported incidence: reports of alleged victims per 1,000 children	21.7	Percent of victims with indicated allegations	48.2
		Indicated incidence: victims with indicated allegations per 1,000 children	**10.5**

*From 1980 U.S. Census

Table 3
Distribution by Region of Reports of Children Allegedly Abused or Neglected

Region	Fiscal Year 1984			Fiscal Year 1985			Fiscal Year 1986		
	Number	Percent	Rate*	Number	Percent	Rate*	Number	Percent	Rate*
Rockford	4,008	6.0	23.3	4,168	6.0	24.3	4,347	6.2	25.3
Peoria	**6,166**	**9.2**	**22.6**	**6,369**	**9.1**	**23.3**	**6,215**	**8.8**	**22.7**
Aurora	9,122	13.6	14.6	9,654	13.9	15.4	9,656	13.7	15.4
Chicago	**28,291**	**42.2**	**19.4**	**29,906**	**43.0**	**20.5**	**30,336**	**43.1**	**20.8**
Springfield	4,101	6.1	25.3	4,017	5.8	24.8	4,165	5.9	25.3
Champaign	**5,634**	**8.4**	**26.9**	**5,912**	**8.5**	**28.2**	**6,078**	**8.6**	**29.0**
East St. Louis	5,505	8.2	29.3	5,504	7.9	29.3	5,566	7.9	29.6
Marion	**4,232**	**6.3**	**28.0**	**4,097**	**5.9**	**27.1**	**4,059**	**5.8**	**26.8**
Not Specified									
State	**67,058**	**100.0**	**20.7**	**69,627**	**100.0**	**21.5**	**70,422**	**100.0**	**21.7**

*Rate per 1,000 of the region's children under age 18 (from 1980 U.S. Census)

Table 4
Distribution by County of Reports of Children Allegedly Abused and Neglected

County	Fiscal Year 1993 Number	Fiscal Year 1993 Rate	Fiscal Year 1994 Number	Fiscal Year 1994 Rate	Fiscal Year 1995 Number	Fiscal Year 1995 Rate	Fiscal Year 1996 Number	Fiscal Year 1996 Rate
Adams	629	31.8	645	32.6	596	30.2	510	25.8
Alexander	220	62.2	209	59.2	169	47.1	223	62.2
Bond	97	22.8	80	18.8	71	16.7	73	17.2
Boone	197	17.2	262	22.2	199	16.5	183	20.1
Brown*	39	26.5	37	25.1	32	21.7	37	25.1
Bureau	204	25.9	208	19.5	223	19.9	226	21.0
Calhoun*	26	16.0	11	6.8	16	9.9	14	8.6
Carroll	88	18.4	114	21.7	119	22.7	101	19.3
Cass	154	35.9	121	28.2	98	22.8	89	20.7
Champaign**	1,094	33.5	1,273	33.4	1,198	31.5	1,354	35.6
Christian	245	23.5	262	25.4	211	20.4	277	26.8
Clark	52	11.7	80	17.7	68	15.0	89	19.7
Clay	88	21.2	120	29.0	94	22.7	94	22.7
Clinton	115	11.2	155	15.1	159	15.5	122	11.9
Coles	428	36.6	388	33.2	460	39.3	483	41.3
Cook**	35,181	17.9	39,291	19.4	39,809	20.5	30,336	20.9
Crawford	57	10.6	96	17.8	69	12.8	125	23.1
Cumberland	70	21.1	62	18.7	68	20.5	72	21.7
DeKalb	336	19.6	335	19.5	339	19.8	403	23.5
DeWitt	85	18.6	91	15.8	143	27.9	114	22.3
Douglas	110	19.4	115	20.3	96	16.9	115	20.3
DuPage**	1,394	7.1	1,462	7.6	1,630	8.3	1,603	8.2
Edgar	223	37.4	182	30.5	139	23.3	202	33.9
Edwards	42	19.7	59	27.2	38	18.9	26	13.1
Effingham	214	22.1	168	17.4	170	17.6	195	20.1
Fayette	255	34.9	122	20.3	134	22.3	135	22.4
Ford	70	16.8	91	21.9	73	17.5	92	22.1
Franklin	295	25.9	296	25.9	246	21.5	243	21.2
Fulton	272	22.1	317	25.5	301	24.4	303	24.6
Gallatin*	67	31.8	77	36.3	48	22.6	41	19.3
Greene	77	16.5	103	22.0	114	24.4	86	18.4
Grundy	123	13.2	112	12.0	135	14.5	117	12.6
Hamilton*	55	24.2	37	16.2	43	18.9	41	18.0
Hancock	135	20.6	100	15.2	136	20.8	113	17.1
Hardin*	51	35.3	40	27.7	22	15.2	48	33.2
Henderson*	25	8.6	50	16.7	62	23.2	53	19.9
Henry	194	11.1	203	11.6	221	12.6	251	14.3
Iroquois	235	25.2	174	18.7	163	17.5	189	20.2
Jackson	416	33.0	422	33.5	439	34.8	392	31.1
Jasper	81	15.4	81	15.4	67	39.2	61	13.4
Jefferson	292	28.6	295	28.9	302	29.6	287	28.1
Jersey	101	17.0	100	17.0	100	16.8	100	16.8
Jo Daviess	90	12.5	108	15.0	119	16.5	112	15.5
Johnson*	62	21.8	95	27.4	30	37.4	73	35.3
Kane**	1,961	22.4	2,093	23.9	2,238	25.5	2,255	25.7
Kankakee**	627	33.0	503	25.9	502	25.2	537	26.3
Kendall	154	12.3	133	10.7	119	9.5	124	9.9
Knox	439	33.8	503	38.6	494	38.1	486	35.2
Lake**	1,737	13.0	2,054	15.4	2,138	16.0	689	22.4
LaSalle**	534	16.0	616	20.0	657	21.4	2,311	17.3
Lawrence	82	17.3	103	21.8	88	18.6	125	26.4
Lee	197	16.8	259	22.0	246	23.0	256	24.6
Livingston	217	19.3	220	19.6	252	22.4	260	23.1
Logan	178	22.0	175	21.8	196	24.5	194	25.0
Macon**	1,153	30.2	1,068	28.0	1,220	32.0	1,247	32.7
Macoupin	328	22.5	326	24.5	254	18.5	342	25.0
Madison**	1,993	28.5	2,051	29.3	1,992	28.4	1,956	27.9
Marion	358	29.1	379	30.8	431	35.0	432	35.1
Marshall	30	7.1	57	13.5	52	12.4	50	11.9
Mason	108	18.3	150	25.4	132	22.3	184	31.1
Massac	131	33.5	136	34.8	123	31.4	138	35.3
McDonough	240	31.4	251	32.1	288	36.8	255	32.6
McHenry**	625	13.3	593	12.6	669	14.2	653	13.9
McLean**	695	23.7	694	23.7	758	25.9	717	24.5
Menard	53	15.5	37	10.8	72	21.1	74	21.7
Mercer	66	14.6	38	16.4	91	15.4	72	12.2
Monroe	56	9.6	72	12.3	45	7.7	31	5.3
Montgomery	177	20.4	227	26.1	180	20.7	209	24.0
Morgan	261	25.9	253	25.1	246	24.4	253	25.1
Moultrie	95	23.7	46	11.5	83	20.7	88	22.0
Ogle	198	14.1	272	19.3	245	17.4	296	21.0
Peoria**	1,525	26.8	1,574	27.7	1,641	28.9	1,520	26.8
Perry	123	19.9	153	24.8	149	24.2	96	15.6
Piatt	54	11.0	58	11.4	114	25.3	61	12.5
Pike	127	25.2	145	28.8	123	24.4	84	16.7
Pope*	23	19.1	18	13.3	34	19.9	34	19.9
Pulaski*	158	59.8	136	51.5	126	48.4	84	31.8
Putnam*	14	7.7	28	15.4	27	14.8	12	6.6
Randolph	156	16.6	101	10.7	165	17.5	177	18.8
Richland	101	21.4	133	28.2	149	31.6	130	27.5
Rock Island**	1,187	25.3	1,185	25.3	1,253	26.7	1,228	26.2
Saline	257	37.7	222	31.4	180	25.5	241	34.1
Sangamon**	1,229	25.4	1,336	27.6	1,443	29.8	1,532	31.7
Schuyler*	40	17.7	40	17.7	28	12.4	43	19.0
Scott*	25	15.2	18	11.0	32	19.5	34	20.7
Shelby	146	21.2	133	19.3	133	19.3	139	20.2
Stark*	23	14.0	14	6.5	25	11.7	3,157	37.6
St. Clair**	3,103	35.9	3,009	35.8	3,007	35.8	28	13.1
Stephenson	277	19.8	366	26.2	364	26.0	320	22.9
Tazewell**	709	20.0	693	22.3	635	20.8	662	21.5
Union	144	34.8	206	49.8	161	38.9	152	36.8
Vermilion	1,015	37.1	968	35.4	942	34.4	857	31.3
Wabash	67	17.6	80	21.1	100	26.3	77	20.3
Warren	103	16.5	115	18.4	108	17.3	112	18.0
Washington	29	6.9	34	8.1	64	15.2	50	11.9
Wayne	85	17.9	114	24.0	85	17.9	101	21.2
White	94	21.8	96	22.2	110	25.5	120	27.8
Whiteside	383	19.0	379	18.8	472	23.5	491	24.4
Will**	1,616	15.0	1,831	17.0	1,923	17.8	1,756	16.3
Williamson	383	26.6	396	26.1	429	29.7	353	23.9
Winnebago**	1,863	25.1	1,998	26.9	2,115	28.4	2,185	29.4
Woodford**	95	9.1	111	10.8	121	11.8	79	7.6
Not Specified	58		22		12			
STATE	63,432	19.6	67,259	20.7	69,627	21.5	70,422	21.7

* = population under 10,000

** = population over 100,000

Figure 1
Child Reports of Abuse/Neglect
by Region
Fiscal Year 1986

Table 5
Comparison of Reporting Rates by Type of County

National Estimate		FY 1984	FY 1985	FY 1986
Urban	19.5 per 1,000	20.1	21.1	23.1
Suburban	10.9 per 1,000	14.1	15.0	15.0
Rural	20.9 per 1,000	22.5	22.0	20.1
TOTAL	17.8 per 1,000	20.7	21.5	21.7

10,000, the average reporting rate was 20.1 children per 1,000.

The state's suburban counties—Lake, DuPage, Kane, Will and McHenry—have an average reporting rate of 15.0 per 1,000. As noted in Table 5, reporting trends in Illinois are consistent with reporting trends in urban, suburban, and rural areas nationwide.

Although the number of reports of suspected child abuse and neglect has increased each fiscal year, the rate of increase has declined since fiscal year 1979 (see Table 1). The decreasing growth rate is attributed to several factors. A massive educational campaign in fiscal year 1979 promoted an increased public awareness of child abuse and neglect. The number of children reported as victims of suspected abuse and neglect increased by 84.4 percent in fiscal year 1979. As the educational campaign reached most of its intended audience, the reporting rate began to stabilize. In addition, the number of children reported as being abused or neglected may be approaching the actual number (as yet unknown).

C. Demographics

Although the number of children reported as being abused or neglected has increased over the past several fiscal years, changes in age, sex, and race distribution have not been significant. Consistently, more than two-thirds of all children reported have been nine years of age or younger (Table 6).

Children 0-2 years old have accounted for 24 percent of all reports during the past three fiscal years. Reporting rates in Illinois have generally declined with increasing age. Overall reporting rates are essentially the same for both boys and girls. Along racial lines, however, black children are disproportionately reported. Approximately 20 percent of the child population in Illinois is black,

Table 6
Demographic Characteristics of Children Reported as Abused or Neglected
Fiscal Years 1984 through 1986

Child Characteristics	Fiscal Year 1984 Number	Percent	Rate*	Fiscal Year 1985 Number	Percent	Rate*	Fiscal Year 1986 Number	Percent	Rate*
Age of Child									
0-2	15,856	23.6	30.7	16,791	22.7	32.5	17,123	24.3	33.1
3-5	14,571	21.7	29.9	15,252	21.9	31.3	15,518	22.0	31.9
6-9	15,090	22.5	21.9	15,539	22.3	22.6	15,938	22.6	23.2
10-13	12,430	18.5	17.1	12,353	17.7	17.0	12,281	17.4	16.9
14-17	8,572	12.8	10.4	9,214	13.2	11.2	9,150	13.0	11.1
Age not reported	539	.8	—	478	.7	—	412	.6	—
Sex of Child									
Boys	32,706	48.8	19.7	33,246	47.7	20.1	33,380	47.4	20.1
Girls	33,923	50.6	21.4	35,934	51.6	22.7	36,504	51.8	23.0
Sex not reported	429	.6	—	447	.6	—	538	.8	—
Child's Ethnic Group									
White	38,363	57.2	16.6	39,119	56.2	17.0	39,179	55.6	17.0
Black	23,020	34.3	37.6	24,504	35.2	40.0	25,283	35.9	41.3
Hispanic	3,663	5.5	14.3	3,813	5.5	14.9	4,034	5.7	15.7
Other/Not Specified	2,012	3.0	—	2,191	3.1	—	1,926	2.7	18.2
TOTAL	67,058		20.7	69,627		21.5	70,422		21.7

*Rate per 1,000 children under age 18 (from 1980 U.S. Census)

but 36 percent of the children reported as abused or neglected were black. It should also be noted that, while white and Hispanic ethnic groups have remained at nearly the same percentage during the past four fiscal years, the "Other/Not Specified" category has continued a consistent decline. With an improved information system, it is likely that race is recorded more accurately, so that the increase in the percentage of black children reported and the decrease in the "Other/Not Specified" category reflect, in part, improved record-keeping.

III. Confronting the Problem

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is the state agency designated to investigate reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. Because of the need to respond systematically and thoroughly to the increasing number of reports, a total redesign of the state's child protection system was initiated in fiscal year 1981.

A. Child Abuse Hotline and the State Central Register

Since the beginning of fiscal year 1981, the Department has assumed a national leadership position in the development of centralized reporting of child abuse and neglect. The "hub" of the state's child protection system is the computerized State Central Register (SCR) and the statewide, toll-free reporting hotline. The State Central Register houses a sophisticated computer system which operates around the clock with 21 visual display terminals. The toll-free number is 1-800-252-2873 (1-800-25A-BUSE). Persons outside the state wishing to report suspected child abuse or neglect in Illinois may call 217-785-4020.

When a person telephones the State Central Register hotline, a specially trained social worker requests information to determine if the call constitutes a report. A report of suspected child abuse or neglect must have four basic elements:

- a child under 18 years of age
- a caretaker responsible for the victim
- a set of circumstances or specific incident
- harm or substantial risk of harm to the child

The social worker then searches the Central Register computer files to find out whether a prior indicated report of abuse or neglect exists on any person in the report, including a child or an alleged perpetrator. If the reporter is doubtful about the spelling of a name, the computer's "Soundex" search system will display on the terminal all names on file that sound like the reported names, along with accompanying age, race, and address. This information, which is displayed in seconds, includes the date and nature of prior indicated reports on alleged victims and all other adults and children in the family, action taken during these investigations (court activity, protective custody, foster care placement, etc.), family or caretaker relationship, and the identity of the perpetrator and caseworker.

Details of the new report and background information are transmitted to the appropriate investigative team. The new report data is then entered on the terminal and set up on the computer file to await updating when the field investigation is completed. Information about previously indicated reports is available to authorized persons at any time of the day or night.

During fiscal year 1986, the State Central Register received 181,548 calls. The number of calls has increased by 155 percent over the number received in fiscal year 1981 (Figure 2).

Reports may be made by private citizens or by mandated reporters—persons required by law (teachers, physicians, law enforcement officers, etc.) to report suspected child abuse and neglect. During fiscal year 1986, mandated reporters made 60 percent of all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect (Table 7 and Figure 3). Medical personnel were responsible for the largest percentage of reports from mandated sources (16.5 percent) and coroner/medical examiner the smallest (0.1 percent). National estimates by reporting source are very similar to Illinois except for medical personnel. Nationwide, medical personnel make fewer reports than other mandated sources.[1]

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, op. cit., 1981.

Reports made by relatives, friends, neighbors, or child victims accounted for 40 percent of all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.

When a report of child abuse or neglect is made to the State Central Register, suspected harms to the child are identified by the hotline social worker. Each harm must be addressed during the process of the investigation. For example, a reporter may suspect that a child has been left alone without a caretaker and has been bruised by a caretaker. In this situation, two harms would be identified for this child.

If other harms are discovered during the investigation, these will also be added to the list. There were 96,865 specified alleged harms to children in fiscal year 1986, an average of 1.37 harms for each suspected child victim (Table 8). The 41,498 family reports involved 70,422 children, or 1.69 children per family report.

As noted in Table 9, reports alleging only abuse harms (called Abuse Reports) accounted for 47.3 percent of all reports; reports alleging only neglect harms (Neglect Reports) accounted for 42.4 percent; and reports containing both abuse and neglect harms (Both) accounted for 10.3 percent. Figure 4 illustrates that more than half (51.3 percent) involved lack of supervision or environmental neglect.

Table 10 provides a detailed look at specific harms of abuse and neglect reported and indicated.

When the computerized Central Register was first established, centralized reporting of suspected abuse and neglect was impeded by the slow transmission of vital information from the Register to investigators in the field offices. The reports were transmitted by telephone. A social worker in the Register would transmit the information orally to

Figure 2
Incoming Calls to the State Central Register
Fiscal Years 1981 through 1986

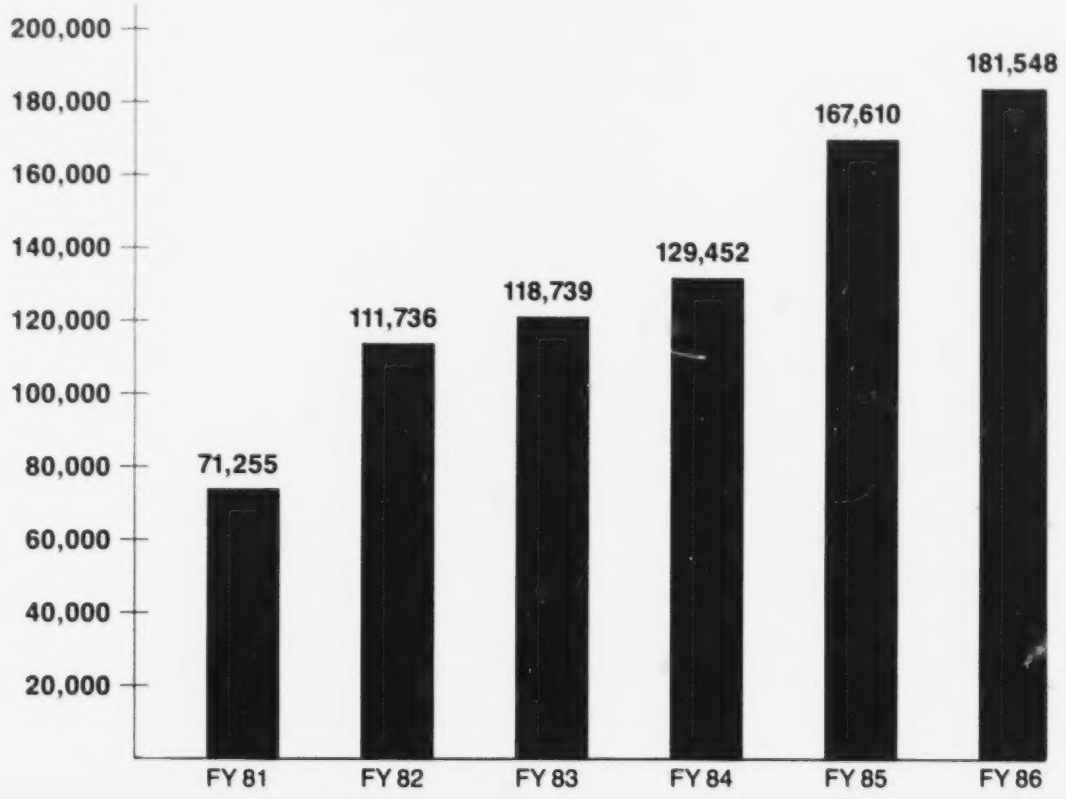
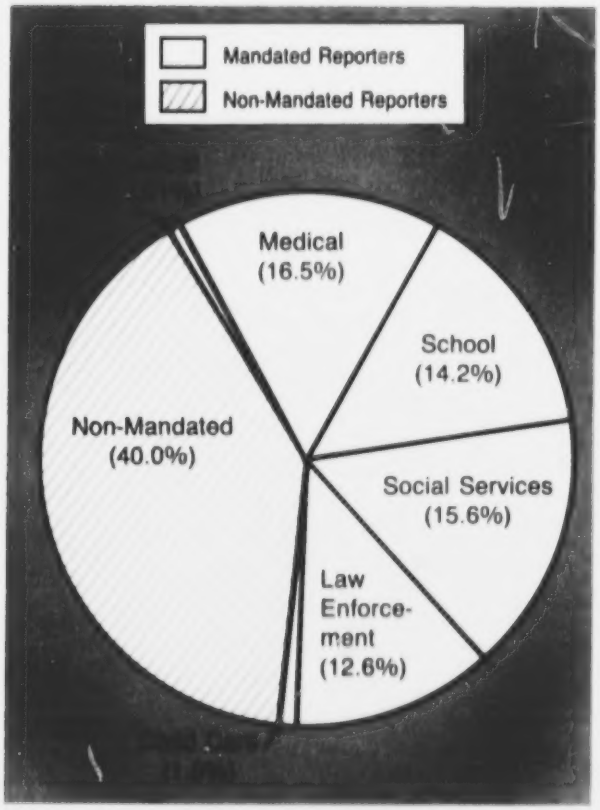


Table 7
Source of Reports by Region
Fiscal Year 1986

Reporter Type	Rockford	Peoria	Aurora	Chicago	Springfield	Champaign	E. St. Louis	Marion	State
MANDATED									
[redacted]	36	48	121	1,288	53	69	94	89	1,812
[redacted]	1	12	6	22	6	11	1	11	72
[redacted]	111	357	469	1,009	182	174	180	107	2,597
[redacted]	32	48	84	168	27	46	18	51	456
[redacted]	76	18	262	1,488	76	110	238	46	2,419
[redacted]	17	12	35	119	21	17	10	10	237
Total Medical	276	437	856	4,161	257	420	465	233	7,105
[redacted]	67	58	131	220	40	60	58	28	880
[redacted]	111	148	231	883	121	159	88	83	1,888
[redacted]	102	81	184	147	81	84	61	88	881
[redacted]	108	92	418	888	88	88	83	88	1,488
[redacted]	78	188	117	882	78	88	84	78	888
[redacted]	8	14	18	88	3	12	10	8	188
[redacted]	82	84	81	188	28	40	22	21	888
Total School Personnel	493	491	1,248	2,341	337	536	366	297	6,109
[redacted]	28	38	38	117	44	78	87	48	884
[redacted]	6	4	4	88	8	8	6	4	88
[redacted]	101	112	118	648	91	188	174	118	1,481
[redacted]	11	1	2	10	2	2	8	1	88
[redacted]	2	8		2	4		1	1	18
[redacted]	3	1	4	8	3	1	2		18
[redacted]	88	38	4	8	38	14	2	7	117
[redacted]				1			1	1	8
[redacted]	12	10	8	38	8	12	10	4	88
Total DCFS Personnel	216	218	174	844	187	244	288	180	2,327
[redacted]				4	2	1			7
[redacted]	28	28	88	188	21	88	48	88	888
[redacted]	2	8	8	88	4	8	7	1	81
[redacted]	188	88	88	188	81	78	84	88	814
[redacted]	188	188	218	882	88	114	85	87	1,488
[redacted]	11	88	81	117	8	11	18	7	881
[redacted]	188	228	241	877	84	174	108	108	1,787
Total Social Services	327	511	628	1,711	227	404	286	277	4,371
[redacted]		8	8	28		4	1		42
[redacted]			2	4			1		7
[redacted]	21	21	28	112	15	18	8	18	884
Police Officer	277	481	704	1,002	381	381	884	317	8,787
[redacted]	11	18	17	22	8	18	7	18	110
[redacted]	28	88	188	827	81	78	28	8	1,088
[redacted]	18	18	41	77	18	21	22	28	238
Total Law Enforcement	342	617	1,027	1,873	352	480	362	371	5,424
[redacted]	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	8
[redacted]	0	0	2	38	0	0	0	0	40
Total Coroner/Medical Examiner	0	1	4	39	1	1	0	0	48
[redacted]	88	22	37	187	30	38	84	27	388
[redacted]	2	8	3	8	8	8	2	1	31
[redacted]	8	8	8	23	8	12	8	8	74
Total Child Care Centers	61	33	49	136	41	57	31	36	444
TOTAL MANDATED REPORTERS	1,715	2,306	3,986	11,105	1,402	2,142	1,776	1,394	25,826
NON-MANDATED									
[redacted]	87	128	228	838	117	188	182	88	1,888
[redacted]	810	488	887	1,848	340	488	881	288	4,888
[redacted]	182	288	288	887	140	188	180	188	1,888
[redacted]	171	288	388	2,008	191	871	888	838	3,781
[redacted]	2	8	8	48		7	8	4	88
[redacted]	18	28	43	181	18	88	28	18	388
Total Relative/Neighbor	717	1,075	1,567	5,108	804	1,074	990	748	12,081
[redacted]	8	8	4	8	2	4	2	2	88
[redacted]	88	118	47	41	18	18	18	17	888
[redacted]	8	18	8	188	4	8	4	8	84
[redacted]	118	88	88	118	82	88	78	78	878
[redacted]	888	888	448	1,488	870	888	884	872	8,888
[redacted]	81	88	148	887	78	182	78	88	888
[redacted]	0	0	0	10	0	0	4	0	17
Total Other	278	497	698	1,926	378	518	450	381	5,126
TOTAL NON-MANDATED REPORTERS	995	1,572	2,265	7,034	1,182	1,592	1,440	1,127	17,207
TOTAL ALL REPORTERS	2,710	3,878	6,251	18,139	2,584	3,734	3,216	2,521	43,033

Figure 3
Source of Reports by Type
Fiscal Year 1986



a field investigator, who would duplicate the data on his or her own report form, confirm spellings and addresses, and then proceed on the investigation. Each report took an average of 15 minutes to transmit. Since one purpose of the State Central Register is to use the most modern means available to communicate with the entire state in what may be life-and-death situations, using the telephone to transmit information to investigators meant that hotline workers were not always available to receive incoming calls. A solution to this problem was the installation of a telecopier facsimile network at the State Central Register and all investigative team headquarters. A report taken at the State Central Register (or at a local office) can be immediately telecopied to the appropriate office. The facsimile network has reduced the amount of time and manpower necessary to communicate reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.

B. Investigation of Reports of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

1. Organization of Protective Services Teams. The Division of Child Protection, of which the State Central Register is a part, is responsible for abuse and neglect investigations, institutional/foster

Table 8
Distribution by Region of Family Reports, Alleged Child Victims, and Harms
Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Family Reports	Alleged Child Victims	Average No. of Victims Per Report	Harms	Average No. of Harms Per Victim
Rockford	2,651	4,347	1.63	5,697	1.31
Peoria	3,782	6,215	1.64	8,271	1.33
Aurora	6,031	9,856	1.60	12,891	1.33
Chicago	17,305	30,336	1.75	43,073	1.41
Springfield	2,513	4,165	1.65	5,466	1.31
Champaign	3,640	6,078	1.66	8,136	1.33
East St. Louis	3,115	5,566	1.78	7,880	1.41
Marion	2,461	4,059	1.64	5,451	1.34
TOTAL	41,498	70,422	1.69	96,865	1.37

Figure 4
Types of Abuse and Neglect Harms Reported
Fiscal Year 1986

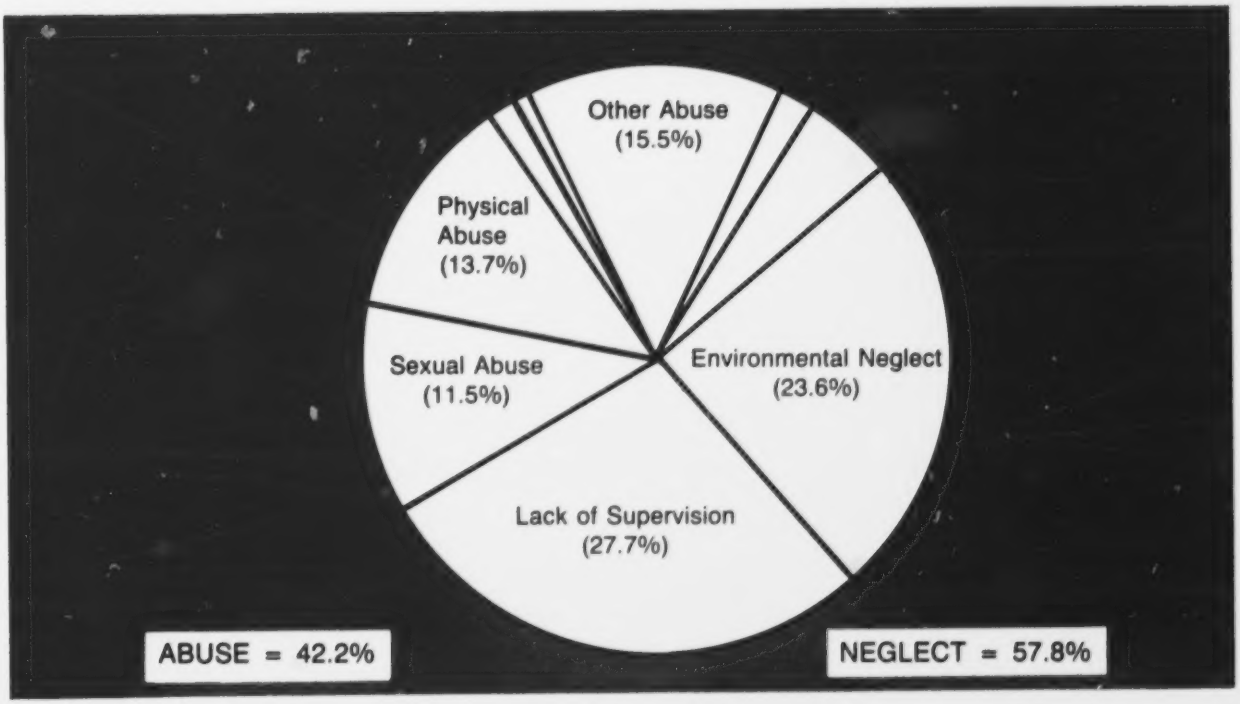


Table 9
Regional Distribution By Types of Reports
Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Abuse		Neglect		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rockford	1,389	52.4	1,042	39.3	220	8.3
Peoria	2,009	53.1	1,460	38.6	313	8.3
Aurora	3,103	51.5	2,340	38.8	588	9.7
Chicago	7,555	43.7	7,837	45.3	1,913	11.1
Springfield	1,207	48.0	1,064	42.3	242	9.6
Champaign	1,751	48.1	1,501	41.2	388	10.7
East St. Louis	1,399	44.9	1,373	44.1	343	11.0
Marion	1,217	49.5	992	40.3	252	10.2
STATE	19,630	47.3	17,609	42.4	4,259	10.3

Table 10
Distribution of Reports by Allegation
Fiscal Year 1986

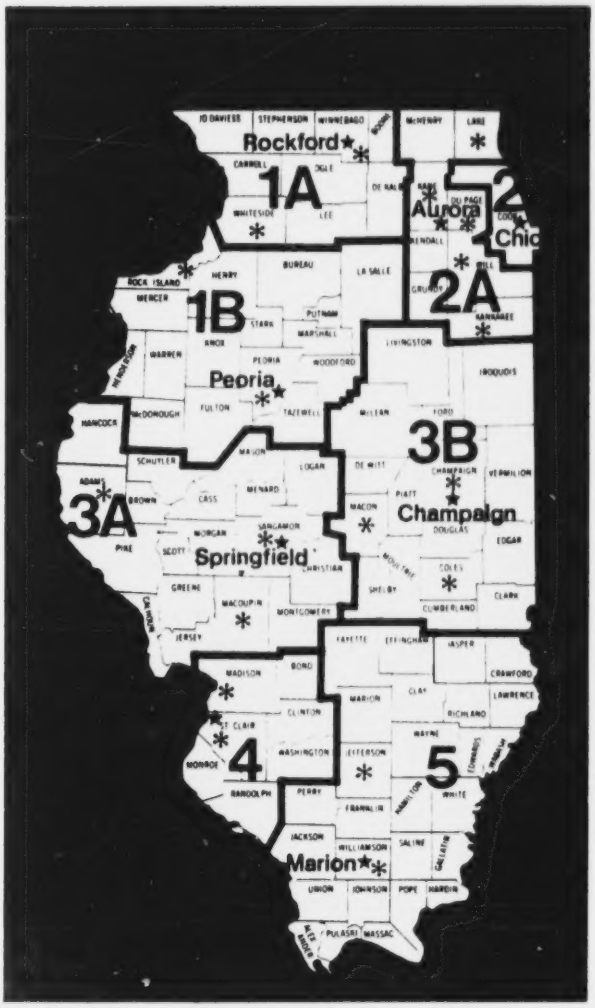
	Total Harms	Total Indicated Harms	Percent Indicated
ABUSE	40,855	20,124	49.3
I. Death	68	46	67.6
II. Physical Abuse	13,356	5,954	44.9
Brain Damage/Skull Fracture	109	50	45.9
Subdural Hematoma	58	33	56.9
Internal Injuries	58	37	63.8
Burns/Scalding	909	239	26.3
Poison/Noxious Substance	39	22	56.4
Wounds	62	35	43.1
Bone Fractures	371	144	38.8
Cuts and Bruises	11,460	5,303	46.3
Human Bites	153	76	49.7
Sprains/Dislocations	47	14	29.8
III. Emotional Abuse	1,306	397	30.4
Tying/Close Confinement	487	165	35.3
Substance Misuse	690	167	24.2
Torture	97	39	40.2
Mental Injury	52	26	50.0
IV. Sexual Abuse	11,173	6,753	60.4
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	253	172	68.0
Sexual Penetration	4,093	2,496	61.0
Sexual Exploitation	1,183	646	54.6
Sexual Molestation	5,644	3,439	60.9
V. Other Abuse	15,042	6,974	46.4
Substantial Risk of Harm	15,042	6,974	46.4
NEGLECT	56,000	24,545	43.8
VI. Blatant Disregard	1,759	989	56.2
Death	79	35	44.3
Brain Damage/Skull Fracture	66	40	60.6
Subdural Hematoma	16	11	68.8
Internal Injuries	10	5	50.0
Burns/Scalding	459	251	54.7
Poison/Noxious Substances	78	29	38.2
Wounds	20	12	60.0
Bone Fractures	108	60	55.6
Cuts and Bruises	436	233	53.4
Human Bites	32	15	46.9
Sprains/Dislocations	9	4	44.4
Substance Misuse	428	283	66.1
Mental Injury	22	11	50.0
VII. Lack of Supervision	26,861	12,408	46.2
Inadequate Supervision	25,208	11,723	46.5
Abandonment/Desertion	653	335	50.5
Lock Out	1,080	350	32.4
VIII. Environmental Neglect	22,579	9,083	39.6
Inadequate Food	6,952	1,652	23.8
Inadequate Shelter	3,270	1,703	52.0
Inadequate Clothing	1,531	480	31.4
Educational Neglect	2,553	1,347	52.8
Environmental Neglect	8,871	3,881	43.7
IX. Lack of Health Care	4,511	2,085	46.2
Medical Neglect	4,119	1,827	44.4
Failure to Thrive	325	214	65.8
Malnutrition	57	41	71.9
Drug/Alcohol Neglect	10	3	30.0
STATE TOTAL	96,855*	44,669	46.1

* Does not include 10 allegations that were incorrectly recorded.

home investigations, and licensing functions. Child protective investigations are conducted by Department staff in eight service regions (Figure 5): Aurora, Champaign, Chicago, East St. Louis, Marion, Peoria, Rockford, and Springfield. Each region has at least two investigative teams responsible for investigating reports of suspected abuse or neglect. Indicated reports (those in which the Department determined child abuse or neglect existed) are referred to the Division of Program Operations for follow-up evaluations and services.

The Division of Child Protection has investigative staff strategically located throughout the state to respond to suspected child abuse and neglect reports. Investigative workers, who are available 24 hours a day, are responsible for all child protection activities, beginning with the receipt of a report of alleged abuse or neglect and concluding with a determination that the report is indicated or unfounded. The teams must also provide or arrange for emergency protective services as required.

The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act requires that the Department commence an investigation within 24 hours of receipt of a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. If it appears that the family may flee or the child disappear, or if the facts otherwise so warrant, an investigation is commenced immediately. Commencement of an investigation begins when an in-person contact, or a "good faith" attempted contact, is made with the alleged child victim(s).



2. Allegation-Based Investigations. Child protection investigations in Illinois were enhanced during fiscal 1985 by revision of the way child abuse and neglect allegations (harms) are defined and applied.

An investigation of suspected child abuse and/or neglect can have a devastating effect on a family and its members, whether or not the allegations are later determined to be indicated or unfounded. A major purpose of an allegation-based child protection model is to focus the investigator's attention on specific incidents or circumstances. This emphasis eliminates the need to review every aspect of a family's life and environment.

The allegation-based system also allows each specific type of abuse and neglect to be precisely defined and treated consistently throughout the state. Major changes to the allegation system include:

- An alleged perpetrator must be 16 years of age or older, unless sexual abuse is suspected, or the alleged perpetrator is the child's parent or the parent's paramour.
- "Blatant disregard" has been added to neglect harms. "Blatant disregard" may be displayed in incidents in which the risk of harm to a child is so imminent and apparent that it is unlikely that any parent or caretaker would expose the child to such without taking precautionary measures to protect the child. A child may sustain a harm (e.g., brain damage or death) because of the "blatant disregard" of the parent or caretaker's responsibility to oversee and protect the child.

Table 11
Children Taken Into Temporary Protective Custody
Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Number Children Reported	No. of Children Taken Into Protective Custody	No. of Protective Custody Reports	% of Children Taken Into Protective Custody
Rockford	4,347	319	209	7.3
Peoria	6,215	554	355	8.9
Aurora	9,656	693	494	7.2
Chicago	30,336	2,901	1,764	9.6
Springfield	4,185	274	179	6.6
Champaign	6,078	551	348	9.1
East St. Louis	5,566	339	213	6.1
Marion	4,059	325	208	8.0
TOTAL	70,422	5,956	3,770	8.5

- "Reasonable efforts to stop abuse" has been added to the definition of abuse. The term is defined as those actions which could have stopped abuse of a child without posing an imminent threat to the person's own safety. (Minors, for example, are not expected to intervene between an adult and another child.)

3. Temporary Protective Custody. The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act authorizes taking temporary protective custody of a child (that is, removing a child from his home) by Department investigators, law enforcement officers, and physicians. Temporary protective custody is taken if a child is in imminent danger of abuse and/or neglect. The decision to take such custody must be reviewed by an appropriate court within 48 hours.

During fiscal year 1986, 5,956 children were taken into temporary protective custody (Table 11). This total represents 8.5 percent of all children reported as victims of suspected abuse and/or neglect. The Chicago Region had the highest percent of temporary protective custodies and the East St. Louis Region had the lowest.

IV. Results of Investigations

A. Finding Status of Reports

Within 14 days of receipt of a report, the investigator must send a detailed preliminary report to the State Central Register to update computer files. A follow-up disposition report must be completed by the investigator within 60 days, although one 30-day extension may be granted in special circumstances. A major objective of the Division of Child Protection is to complete investigations within 10 working days in order to minimize the impact of an investigation on families.

A follow-up disposition report may be classified in one of three categories: undetermined, unfounded, or indicated. A report is classified as undetermined if the investigator could not make a decision within 60 days and has requested a 30-day extension. At the end of the additional 30 days, the investigator must either "unfound" or "indicate" the report.

If a report is unfounded, the report by law must be expunged from the computer system, and all files at the State Central Register must be destroyed. If indicated, the report remains in the computer for at least five years. Notification letters of the findings are sent to all alleged perpetrators and mandated reporters involved in the report.

Of the 41,498 family reports of suspected child abuse and neglect in fiscal year 1986, the Department found that abuse and neglect were indicated in 20,143 reports. Involved as victims of indicated abuse and neglect were 33,959 children, an average of 1.7 children per indicated family report. The regional distribution of alleged child victims and indicated investigations can be noted in Table 12. For county distribution, see Table 12A.

The National Study of the Incidence and Severity of Child Abuse and Neglect estimated that 7.6 children per 1,000 are victims of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect.[1] Illinois' indicated rate of 10.5 per 1,000 is higher than national estimates. The percentage of indicated family reports varied from 42.9 percent in the Springfield Region to 52.4 percent in the Chicago Region (Table 13). Variances among regions may be due to the actual incidence of child abuse and neglect in a given area or to socioeconomic factors. County distribution is shown in Table 13A.

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, op. cit., 1981.

Figure 6
Percent of Indicated Harms
Fiscal Year 1986

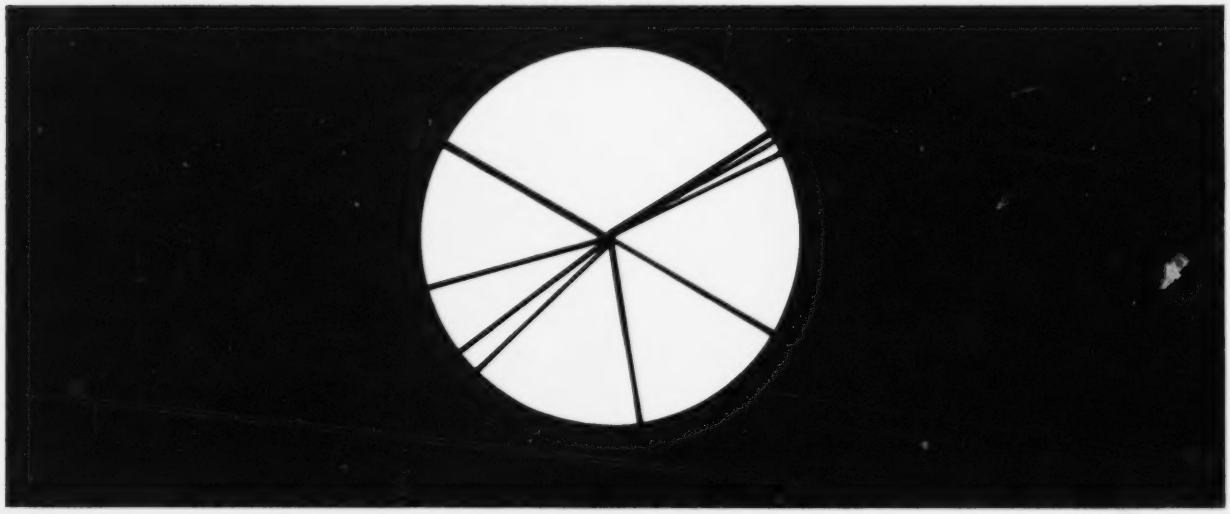


Table 12
Regional Distribution of Child Victims in Indicated Investigations
Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Indicated Investigations	Indicated Child Victims	Child Victims Per Indicated Investigation	Child Victims Per 1,000 Children Under 18 Years Old
Rockford	1,309	2,233	1.7	13.0
Peoria	1,666	2,780	1.7	10.2
Aurora	2,783	4,426	1.6	7.1
Chicago	9,076	15,440	1.7	10.6
Springfield	1,077	1,824	1.7	11.3
Champaign	1,737	2,981	1.7	14.2
East St. Louis	1,411	2,507	1.8	13.3
Marion	1,084	1,768	1.6	11.7
STATE	20,143	33,959	1.7	10.5

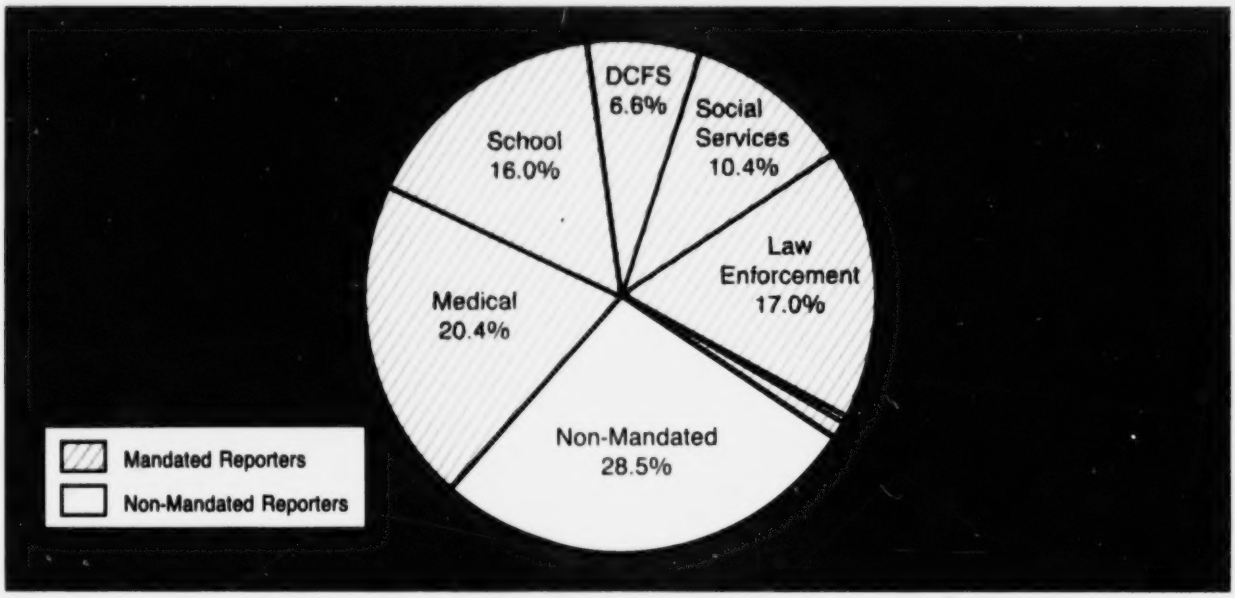
Table 12A
County Distribution of Child Victims in Indicated Investigations
Fiscal Year 1986

County	Child Reports	Reporting Rate Per 1,000	Indicated Child Reports	Indicated Rate Per 1,000
Adams	510	25.8	193	9.8
Alexander	223	62.2	88	24.5
Bond	73	17.2	32	7.5
Boone	183	20.1	82	9.0
Brown	37	25.1	13	8.8
Bureau	236	21.0	105	9.4
Calhoun	14	8.6	8	4.9
Carroll	101	19.3	61	11.6
Cass	89	20.7	43	10.0
Champaign	1,354	35.6	791	20.8
Christian	277	26.8	115	11.1
Clark	89	19.7	52	11.5
Clay	94	22.7	46	11.1
Clinton	122	11.9	51	5.0
Coles	483	41.3	249	21.3
Cook	30,336	20.8	15,440	10.6
Crawford	125	23.1	53	9.8
Cumberland	72	21.7	44	13.3
DeKalb	403	23.5	213	12.4
DeWitt	114	22.3	43	8.4
Douglas	115	20.3	64	11.3
DuPage	1,603	8.2	690	3.5
Edgar	202	33.9	122	20.5
Edwards	28	13.1	11	5.2
Effingham	195	20.1	75	7.7
Fayette	135	22.4	55	9.1
Ford	92	22.1	48	11.5
Franklin	243	21.2	83	7.3
Fulton	303	24.6	166	13.5
Gallatin	41	19.3	23	10.8
Greene	86	18.4	35	7.5
Grundy	117	12.6	39	4.2
Hamilton	41	18.0	11	4.8
Hancock	113	17.1	43	6.5
Hardin	48	33.2	15	10.4
Henderson	53	19.9	11	4.1
Henry	251	14.3	90	5.1
Iroquois	188	20.2	96	10.3
Jackson	392	31.1	192	15.2
Jasper	61	18.4	30	9.0
Jefferson	287	28.1	140	13.7
Jersey	100	16.8	45	7.6
Jo Daviess	112	15.5	49	6.8
Johnson	73	30.3	27	11.2
Kane	2,255	25.7	1,130	12.9
Kankakee	837	26.3	395	12.4
Kendall	124	9.9	55	4.4
Knox	485	28.2	208	12.6
Lake	2,311	17.3	1,169	8.7
LaSalle	669	22.4	301	9.8
Lawrence	125	26.4	58	14.4
Lee	258	24.8	126	12.1
Livingston	260	23.1	144	12.8
Logan	184	23.0	105	13.1
Macon	1,247	32.7	524	13.7
Macoupin	342	25.0	176	12.8
Madison	1,956	27.9	834	11.9
Marion	432	35.1	227	18.5
Marshall	50	11.9	14	3.3
Mason	184	31.1	88	14.9
Massac	138	35.3	81	20.7
McDonough	255	32.6	120	15.3
McHenry	653	13.9	306	6.5
McLean	717	24.5	338	11.5
Menard	74	21.7	28	8.2
Mercer	72	12.2	21	3.6
Monroe	31	5.3	17	2.9
Montgomery	209	24.0	120	13.8
Morgan	253	25.1	113	11.2
Moultrie	88	22.0	55	13.7
Ogle	296	21.0	161	11.4
Peoria	1,520	26.8	741	13.0
Perry	96	15.6	38	6.2
Piatt	61	12.5	28	5.7
Pike	84	16.7	23	4.6
Pope	24	19.9	9	7.5
Pulaski	84	31.8	20	7.6
Putnam	12	6.6	8	4.4
Randolph	177	18.8	67	7.1
Richland	130	27.5	45	9.5
Rock Island	1,228	26.2	472	10.1
Saline	241	34.1	111	15.7
Sangamon	1,532	31.7	634	13.1
Schuyler	43	19.0	29	12.8
Scott	34	20.7	13	7.9
Shelby	139	20.2	66	9.6
St. Clair	3,157	37.6	1,484	17.7
Stark	28	13.1	10	4.7
Stephenson	320	22.9	157	11.2
Tazewell	862	21.5	389	9.7
Union	152	36.8	55	13.3
Vermilion	857	31.3	317	11.6
Wabash	77	20.3	36	9.5
Warren	112	18.0	77	12.3
Washington	50	11.9	22	5.2
Wayne	101	21.2	45	9.5
White	120	27.8	51	11.8
Whiteside	491	24.4	243	12.1
Will	1,756	16.3	642	6.0
Williamson	353	23.9	133	9.0
Winnebago	2,185	29.4	1,141	15.3
Woodford	79	7.6	47	4.5
STATE	70,422	21.7	33,959	10.5

Table 13
Results of Investigations of Family Reports by Region and Type of Report
Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Total Reports	Number of Indicated Reports				Percent of Reports Indicated			
		Total	Abuse	Neglect	Both	Total	Abuse	Neglect	Both
Rockford	2,851	1,309	708	482	119	49.4	51.0	46.3	54.1
Peoria	3,782	1,666	908	561	197	44.1	45.2	38.4	62.9
Aurora	6,031	2,783	1,437	961	385	46.1	46.3	41.1	65.5
Chicago	17,305	9,076	4,016	3,857	1,203	52.4	53.2	49.2	62.9
Springfield	2,513	1,077	495	440	142	42.9	41.0	41.4	58.7
Champaign	3,640	1,737	855	654	228	47.7	48.8	43.6	58.8
East St. Louis	3,115	1,411	654	569	188	45.3	46.7	41.4	54.8
Marion	2,461	1,084	549	393	142	44.0	45.1	39.6	56.3
STATE	41,498	20,143	9,622	7,917	2,604	48.5	49.0	45.0	61.1

Figure 7
Source of Indicated Reports
Fiscal Year 1986



Reports of suspected child abuse and neglect made by court/law enforcement personnel had the highest rate (66.5 percent) of all reporting sources. The indicated rates by reporting sources can be noted in Table 14 and Figure 7. The indicated rate for all mandated reporters was 58.8 percent, compared to that of non-mandated reporters, 35.1 percent.

Of the 96,865 reported harms as a result of alleged abuse and neglect investigated by the Department, 44,669 (46.1 percent) were indicated.

As noted in Table 10, abuse harms accounted for only 42.2 percent of the total reported allegations, but 49.3 percent of the abuse harms were indicated. Only 43.8 percent of all reported neglect harms were indicated. Figure 6 illustrates the percentage of all indicated harms in the major abuse and neglect categories.

Table 13A
County Distribution of Indicated Family Reports
Fiscal Year 1986

County	Total Family Reports	Indicated Family Reports
Adams	331	126
Alexander	119	45
Bond	41	22
Boone	110	47
Brown	17	8
Bureau	130	55
Calhoun	9	5
Carroll	84	30
Cass	53	24
Champaign	780	432
Christian	162	72
Clark	58	32
Clay	58	25
Clinton	88	31
Coles	309	164
Cook	17,305	9,078
Crawford	84	36
Cumberland	37	22
DeKalb	245	118
DeWitt	70	26
Douglas	66	30
DuPage	1,100	480
Edgar	117	67
Edwards	18	9
Effingham	124	48
Fayette	67	27
Ford	67	35
Franklin	150	52
Fulton	183	93
Gallatin	29	15
Greene	60	26
Grundy	77	31
Hamilton	28	9
Hancock	62	23
Hardin	22	9
Henderson	35	7
Henry	150	57
Iroquois	121	59
Jackson	251	116
Jasper	33	17
Jefferson	185	90
Jersey	69	31
Jo Daviess	67	30
Johnson	44	17
Kane	1,350	646
Kankakee	472	285
Kendall	80	35
Knox	289	128
Lake	1,424	744
LaSalle	395	187
Lawrence	65	34
Lee	154	77
Livingston	164	96
Logan	107	57
Macon	714	294
Macoupin	198	88
Madison	1,165	505
Marion	258	139
Marshall	30	9
Mason	107	48
Massac	83	45
McDonough	168	74
McHenry	416	202
McLean	446	203
Menard	49	19
Mercer	41	12
Monroe	26	15
Montgomery	103	56
Morgan	151	66
Moultrie	50	27
Ogle	159	77
Peoria	891	421
Perry	67	28
Piatt	37	19
Pike	61	21
Pope	15	8
Pulaski	52	14
Putnam	10	6
Randolph	112	45
Richland	75	31
Rock Island	792	295
Saline	140	69
Sangamon	938	379
Schuyler	22	14
Scott	16	5
Shelby	80	35
St. Clair	1,667	776
Stark	17	6
Stephenson	209	100
Tazewell	525	237
Union	90	28
Vermilion	526	199
Wabash	57	25
Warren	76	40
Washington	36	17
Wayne	66	28
White	72	33
Whiteside	290	140
Will	1,109	420
Williamson	221	97
Winnebago	1,352	685
Woodford	51	22
STATE	41,488	20,145

Table 14
Indicated Reports: Sources by Region
Fiscal Year 1986

Reporter Type	Rockford	Peoria	Aurora	Chicago	Springfield	Champaign	E. St. Louis	Marion	State
MANDATED									
Clinic or Hospital Physician	22	23	70	842	15	31	9	16	1,028
Nurse (LPN)	0	6	6	16	2	4	1	6	43
Nurse (RN)	61	125	218	666	52	100	66	66	1,366
Private Physician	15	32	36	99	12	20	11	16	243
Hospital Social Worker	46	37	132	1,047	41	71	123	20	1,517
Other Medical Personnel	11	5	10	78	9	11	13	3	140
Total Medical	155	230	474	2,750	131	237	243	117	4,337
School Counselor	38	20	78	137	17	34	21	13	367
Principal	57	70	157	411	58	115	55	46	969
School Nurse	77	27	67	99	16	28	40	31	405
School Social Worker	39	29	211	418	15	49	41	16	818
Teacher	30	42	41	139	35	33	35	36	391
Assistant Principal	3	6	7	61	1	6	7	4	95
Truant Officer	16	5	15	120	2	1	9	4	174
Other School Personnel	14	27	36	58	11	21	15	8	192
Total School Personnel	277	226	632	1,443	155	287	223	158	3,401
DCFS Investigator	46	33	22	70	29	55	43	27	325
DCFS Investigative Supervisor	2	2	2	15	3	3	3	2	32
DCFS Follow-up Worker	57	74	74	386	55	76	94	70	886
DCFS Licensing Worker	7	1	0	3	1	0	3	1	16
DCFS Resource Worker	0	2		1	3		0	1	7
DCFS Adoption Worker	1	0	1	2	3	1	2		10
DCFS Homemaker	17	19	3	2	20	10	2	3	76
DCFS Institutional Worker				0			1	0	1
Other DCFS Personnel	8	6	1	16	3	8	5	2	49
Total DCFS Personnel	138	137	103	495	117	153	153	106	1,402
Department of Corrections Staff				0	0	1			1
Department of Public Aid Staff	13	4	14	56	7	7	12	13	126
Institutional Staff	2	2	3	11	1	2	3	1	25
Mental Health Personnel	26	25	29	73	32	46	16	37	304
Private Agency Social Worker	61	76	116	356	25	52	48	40	776
Psychologist	6	16	29	56	5	5	9	6	134
Other Social Services	62	116	111	356	39	101	44	41	870
Total Social Services	170	241	304	908	109	214	132	138	2,216
Court		2	2	15		3	1		23
Emergency Services Staff			2	1			0		3
Parole/Probation Officer	10	11	16	66	6	9	4	5	129
Police Officer	191	296	470	720	172	251	172	186	2,462
State's Attorney	5	11	15	15	2	13	2	6	67
Juvenile Officer	14	60	109	480	32	62	27	6	790
Other Law Enforcement Personnel	7	11	29	38	15	15	12	14	141
Total Law Enforcement	227	393	643	1,335	227	343	218	219	3,605
Coroner		1	2	1	1	1			6
Medical Examiner			1	20					21
Total Coroner/Medical Examiner		1	3	21	1	1			27
Day Care/Night Care Center	24	10	11	53	12	16	12	11	149
Day Care/Night Care Home	1	2	2	0	3	3	0	0	11
Pre-School/Nursery School	2	3	4	10	1	8	2	2	32
Total Child Care Centers	27	15	17	63	16	27	14	13	192
TOTAL MANDATED REPORTERS	994	1,243	2,176	7,015	756	1,262	983	751	15,180
NON-MANDATED									
Father/Father Substitute	35	42	59	186	28	39	37	19	445
Friend/Neighbor	108	135	169	664	99	157	120	91	1,444
Mother/Mother Substitute	64	90	134	301	64	83	68	68	954
Relative	62	75	169	1,039	79	93	124	86	1,748
Sibling	1	4	5	28		2	3	1	44
Victim	3	10	16	84	6	15	8	10	151
Total Relative/Neighbor	281	356	571	2,162	275	389	354	278	4,864
Non-Center/Home Child Care	1	2	2	3		1		1	10
Examiner	2	6	20	11	3	6	6	6	66
Other Child Care Provider	6	7	1	9	1	2	2	2	30
Landlord	3	9	23	46	10	16	4	6	117
Anonymous	47	72	91	368	60	82	66	67	676
Other Reporting Source	20	25	36	69	19	32	36	25	379
Unknown				4		1	0		7
Total Other	79	123	176	531	93	150	131	98	1,381
TOTAL NON-MANDATED REPORTERS	360	479	747	2,693	368	539	485	374	6,045
TOTAL ALL REPORTERS	1,354	1,722	2,923	9,708	1,124	1,801	1,468	1,125	21,225

B. Fatalities

Child abuse and neglect can result in permanent physical, emotional, and mental damage to a child. The more severe forms may result in the child's death.

The Chicago Region, which has 45.1 percent of the state's 0-18-year-old population, accounted for 58.8 percent of child abuse and neglect deaths over the past six fiscal years. The lowest number of deaths has consistently been recorded in the Rockford Region.

More than three-fourths of all child abuse and neglect deaths involve children under the age of 3 (Table 16). The child victim has most often been a male (56.5 percent) and most often black (56.5 percent).

The number of child fatalities resulting from abuse and neglect for the past six fiscal years is presented in Table 15.

Table 15
Indicated Death Reports by Region
Fiscal Years 1981 through 1986

Region	FY81	FY82	FY83	FY84	FY85	FY86
Rockford	2	1	1	3	1	2
Peoria	1	5	7	5	3	6
Aurora	9	6	7	4	7	8
Chicago	61	51	36	31	34	42
Springfield	4	1	1	1	1	6
Champaign	4	1	11	3	2	8
East St. Louis	18	9	2	5	1	2
Marion	2	5	1	2	5	6
STATE	101	79*	66	54	54*	80*

*Amended

Table 16
Characteristics of Indicated Abuse/Neglect Deaths
Fiscal Years 1981 through 1986

Age of Child	Number Indicated	Number Males	Number Females	Number White	Number Black	Number Spanish	Number Other	Number Unknown Race
00	195	108	87	71	107	12	3	2
01	93	59	34	28	56	8	1	0
02	47	22	25	14	29	4	0	0
03	29	15	14	11	14	3	0	1
04	15	12	3	3	11	0	1	0
05	20	11	9	6	13	1	0	0
06 - 12	27	13	14	9	13	4	1	0
13 - 17	8	5	3	6	2	0	0	0
STATE	434	245	189	148	245	32	6	3

C. Sexual Abuse Reports

The actual number of sexually abused children in Illinois (and in the United States) is unknown. A child victim may not disclose a sexual assault for fear of rejection, blame, or punishment. Parents themselves may not report the sexual abuse of their child, fearing that an investigation of the incident would be more damaging than any physical or emotional harm the child might have experienced from the assault. While national estimates of sexual abuse of children are approximately 7 percent of all reported child abuse, the true incidence may be much higher.

The number of Illinois children reported as victims of sexual abuse has increased dramatically over the past six fiscal years (Table 17). Increased public awareness of child sexual abuse has contributed to this growth. Television programs, newspaper columns, magazine articles, and other media activities have focused on the subject.

During fiscal year 1986, 8,397 Illinois children were alleged to have been sexually abused (Tables 17A and 17B). In other words, 11.9 percent of all alleged child abuse and/or neglect victims were reported as being sexually abused by a parent, an immediate family member, a paramour of the child's parent, an individual residing in the same home as the child, or another person responsible for the child's welfare. Investigations by the Department of sexual abuse reports found credible evidence that 4,902 children reported were in fact sexually abused.

Although the majority of indicated fiscal year 1986 sexual abuse reports involved a white female age 10 years or older (Table 18), the 3-9-year-old group is almost as vulnerable to sexual assault.

During fiscal year 1986, a natural parent was indicated in the sexual abuse of a child in approximately one out of every three child reports (Table 19A). A combination of natural parents, stepparents, and parental substitutes accounted for

Table 17
Number of Alleged Sexual Abuse Victims
Fiscal Years 1981 through 1986

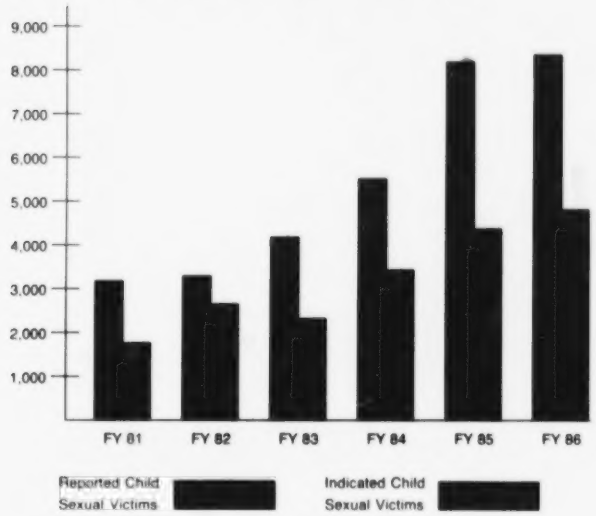


Table 17A
Number of Alleged Sexual Abuse Reports and Alleged Child Victims by Region
Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Children Reported	Children Indicated	Percent Indicated	Number of Protective Custodies
Rockford	627	396	63.2	66
Peoria	883	498	56.4	83
Aurora	1,207	693	57.4	118
Chicago	3,124	1,895	60.7	279
Springfield	480	268	55.8	31
Champaign	828	489	59.1	87
East St. Louis	680	353	51.9	50
Marion	568	310	54.6	58
STATE	8,397	4,902	58.4	772

Table 17B
Number of Alleged Sexual Abuse Reports
Alleged Child Victims by County
Fiscal Year 1986

County	Children Reported	Children Indicated	Percent Indicated	Number of Protective Custodies
Adams	52	23	44.2	3
Alexander	26	10	38.5	4
Bond	13	4	30.8	0
Boone	19	14	73.7	5
Brown	1	1	100.0	0
Bureau	49	33	67.3	4
Calhoun	1	0	0.0	0
Carroll	22	17	77.3	3
Cass	8	5	62.5	0
Champaign	142	98	69.0	24
Christian	41	21	51.2	1
Clark	11	7	63.6	1
Clay	11	7	63.6	1
Clinton	14	11	78.6	0
Coles	61	37	60.7	3
Cook	3,124	1,895	60.7	279
Crawford	15	7	46.7	1
Cumberland	15	10	66.7	1
DeKalb	67	44	65.7	8
DeWitt	10	5	50.0	0
Douglas	22	11	50.0	1
DuPage	223	127	57.0	6
Edgar	20	11	55.0	3
Edwards	7	5	71.4	0
Effingham	20	10	50.0	1
Fayette	22	7	31.8	0
Ford	17	11	64.7	2
Franklin	44	25	56.8	4
Fulton	48	26	54.2	3
Gallatin	6	3	50.0	1
Greene	9	4	44.4	1
Grundy	15	9	60.0	4
Hamilton	9	5	55.6	0
Hancock	13	7	53.8	3
Hardin	4	3	75.0	2
Henderson	8	3	37.5	0
Henry	27	17	63.0	0
Iroquois	26	17	65.4	3
Jackson	60	42	70.0	2
Jasper	15	12	80.0	3
Jefferson	41	21	51.2	4
Jersey	10	4	40.0	3
Jo Daviess	16	11	68.8	2
Johnson	5	1	20.0	1
Kane	264	157	59.5	21
Kankakee	85	41	48.2	9
Kendall	15	8	53.3	2
Knox	58	32	55.2	4
LaSalle	94	61	64.9	9
Lake	253	168	66.7	40
Lawrence	18	10	55.6	0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

County	Children Reported	Children Indicated	Percent Indicated	Number of Protective Custodies
Livingston	63	31	49.2	2
Logan	24	14	58.3	2
Macon	200	102	51.0	17
Macoupin	49	35	71.4	2
Madison	249	125	50.2	14
Marion	50	30	60.0	10
Marshall	12	5	41.7	0
Mason	19	13	68.4	0
Massac	12	6	50.0	1
McDonough	35	15	45.7	4
McHenry	89	56	62.9	9
McLean	89	64	71.9	11
Menard	9	3	33.3	2
Mercer	13	6	46.2	0
Monroe	9	6	66.7	1
Montgomery	36	33	86.8	3
Morgan	34	19	55.9	1
Moultrie	3	3	100.0	0
Ogle	63	32	50.8	5
Peoria	175	95	54.3	24
Perry	12	7	58.3	1
Piatt	16	9	56.3	0
Pike	11	7	63.6	1
Pope	9	6	66.7	0
Pulaski	10	3	30.0	1
Putnam	6	5	83.3	0
Randolph	29	10	34.5	3
Richland	14	7	50.0	3
Rock Island	198	106	53.5	15
Saline	31	11	35.5	1
Sangamon	152	73	48.0	8
Schuyler	7	5	71.4	1
Scott	2	1	50.0	0
Shelby	16	10	62.5	0
St. Clair	358	192	53.6	31
Stark	4	2	50.0	0
Stephenson	44	24	54.5	3
Tazewell	114	59	51.8	13
Union	20	6	30.0	0
Vermilion	117	63	53.8	15
Wabash	13	9	69.2	3
Warren	30	25	83.3	6
Washington	8	5	62.5	1
Wayne	21	15	71.4	3
White	20	15	75.0	6
Whiteside	94	72	76.6	8
Will	223	129	57.8	26
Williamson	53	27	50.9	5
Winnebago	259	148	57.1	31
Woodford	12	7	58.3	3
STATE	8,997	4,902	54.4	772

Table 18
Demographic Characteristics of Children in Indicated Sexual Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1986

Child Characteristics	Number	Percent
Age of Child		
0-2	238	4.9
3-5	988	20.4
6-9	1,224	25.0
10-13	1,299	26.2
14-17	1,190	24.3
Age not reported	18	.3
TOTAL	4,902	100.0
Sex of Child		
Boys	955	19.5
Girls	3,939	80.4
Sex not reported	8	.2
TOTAL	4,902	100.0
Child's Ethnic Group		
White	3,224	65.8
Black	1,260	25.7
Hispanic	322	6.6
Other/not reported	96	2.0
TOTAL	4,902	100.0

Table 19A
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Relationship to Child Victim in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 7,668 Relationship	Percent of Involvement
Natural Parent	51.0
Step-Parent	11.3
Other	12.9
Parental Substitute	9.2
Other	9.3
Sibling	7.4
Other	8.2
Grandparent	5.0
Other	11.1
Foster Parent	.9
Other	.1
Group Home/Institution Staff	.6
Other	100.0

*Note: Duplicated Count

Table 19B
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Sex in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 4,877 Sex	Percent of Involvement
Male	78.9
Female	18.8
Not Identified	2.3
TOTAL	100.0

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

Table 19C
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Age in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 4,877 Age Group	Percent of Involvement
Under 20	18.2
20-30	20.9
30-40	28.8
40-50	13.3
Over 50	8.8
Not Identified	10.0
TOTAL	100.0

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

Table 19D
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Race in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 4877 Race	Percent of Involvement
White	62.4
Black	26.2
Spanish	6.6
Other	.7
Not Identified	4.1
TOTAL	100.0

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

more than half of all indicated sexual abuse perpetrators.

The perpetrator in 78.9 percent of sexual abuse cases was male. (See Table 19B.) Age and racial characteristics of sexual abuse perpetrators are presented in Tables 19C and 19D. The most common age range for indicated perpetrators was between 30 and 40 (28.8 percent). Most perpetrators (62.4 percent) were white.

D. Perpetrators

Each family report of suspected child abuse and/or neglect to the State Central Register may contain multiple alleged perpetrators and child victims. The perpetrator-child relationship may also vary in a single family report (e.g., the perpetrator may be the natural parent of one child victim and a step-parent of another child victim in the family). In addition, a perpetrator may abuse or neglect more than one child within the family. Data presented in Tables 20, 21 and 22, therefore, contain duplicated counts of the perpetrator if the perpetrator abused or neglected more than one child within the family.

A natural parent was most often indicated as perpetrator in all reports. During fiscal year 1986, 75.0 percent of all indicated child victims were abused and/or neglected by natural parent(s). Nearly three-quarters of the time, the natural mother was the perpetrator. Natural fathers were more likely to be indicated for abuse of a child rather than for neglect. The cultural role of the mother in a family—being responsible for the physical care of the children, while the father is responsible for discipline—may affect the apparently disproportionate representation of natural parent perpetrators. In addition, 18.4 percent of all families with children under age 18 in [illegible] are headed by a female with no husband present.

In all other perpetrator-child relationships, males are more likely to be indicated for abuse of the child, while females are more likely to be indicated for neglect.

The majority of all perpetrators are between the ages of 20 and 40 (Table 23), with more than one-third of all perpetrators between ages 20 and 30. For male perpetrators, indicated rates generally increase with age, while for female perpetrators rates decrease with age.

Since black children are disproportionately reported as being abused or neglected, black perpetrators are also disproportionately represented.

Table 20
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Relationship to Child Victim in All Reports of Abuse/Neglect
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 45,204 Relationship	Percent of Involvement	N = 17,512 Percent Male	N = 27,466 Percent Female
Natural Parent	75.0	26.8	73.1
Parental Substitute	5.5	91.8	8.1
Step-Parent	5.7	86.8	13.1
Babysitter	2.7	62.3	37.2
Aunt/Uncle	2.5	63.1	36.5
Sibling	1.7	82.6	17.1
Adoptive Parent	.6	60.8	39.2
Foster Parent	.7	44.4	55.6
Other	5.7	59.4	34.1
TOTAL	100.0	38.7	60.8

*Note: Each family report of suspected child abuse/neglect may contain up to four (4) caretaker(s)/perpetrator(s) and up to ten (10) alleged child victims. The relationship of the caretaker(s)/perpetrator(s) may vary among the alleged child victim(s). For example, a perpetrator is alleged to have abused five (5) childen in the family. The perpetrator is the natural parent of one (1) child and the step-parent of the other four (4) children. "N" therefore, represents a duplicated count of each perpetrator to each child victim. The male and female categories above do not add up to a total of 45,204 because 226 reports did not specify the sex of the alleged perpetrator.

Within ethnic groups by sex, black females represent the largest proportion of indicated perpetrators (Table 24).

E. Service Delivery

The Division of Program Operations is responsible for the second major component of child protective services: the provision of services to remedy problems and to prevent harm to children. When an investigation results in an indicated finding, the investigative unit transfers the case to a service unit in the Division of Program Operations. Service staff either provide or purchase the services that are needed to protect the child from harm. Whenever possible, the family unit is preserved intact as long as the child is safe. The Division of Program Operations pursues the fulfillment of its mission to protect and care for children in one of six goals in the family's service plans. These "permanency goals" define the direction and purpose of service plans as indicated by individual needs.

The six goals are:

- Family Preservation: Maintaining the child in the home is the preferred goal when the

Table 21
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Relationship to Child Victims in Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 20,286 Relationship	Percent of Involvement	N = 11,733 Percent Male	N = 8,349 Percent Female
Natural Parent	59.6	41.3	58.6
Parental Substitute	8.8	93.3	6.6
Step-Parent	9.7	88.0	11.9
Babysitter	4.3	73.1	26.3
Aunt/Uncle	4.0	79.3	20.2
Sibling	3.2	89.3	10.4
Adoptive Parent	.9	67.6	32.4
Foster Parent	.8	50.6	49.4
Other	8.7	73.1	17.8
TOTAL	100.0	57.9	41.2

*Note: Duplicated Count

Table 22
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Relationship to Child Victim in Neglect Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 24,395 Relationship	Percent of Involvement	N = 6,779 Percent Male	N = 18,117 Percent Female
Natural Parent	87.5	18.7	81.1
Parental Substitute	2.8	88.0	11.9
Step-Parent	2.5	83.2	16.8
Babysitter	1.4	35.8	63.9
Aunt/Uncle	1.4	24.9	75.1
Sibling	.4	35.5	64.5
Adoptive Parent	.3	41.5	58.5
Foster Parent	.3	38.4	61.6
Other	3.3	29.6	69.3
TOTAL	100.0	30.2	69.7

*Note: Duplicated Count

child's safety and well-being are assured.

- Family Reunification: Returning children to their parents' home is the preferred goal for children who have been placed in substitute care.
- Adoption: Adoption is the preferred permanency goal when the biological family is unwilling or unable to care for a child.
- Long-Term Placement: Long-term placement is generally not a preferred goal for a child since it fails to provide the child with a sense of continuity and belonging. Long-term placement is a goal only when a child over age 14 years does not want to be adopted, when the court refuses to terminate parental rights, or when relatives or foster parents commit themselves to raise the child to maturity.
- Independence: Independence may be a goal for mature older adolescents who have demonstrated the ability to care for themselves, who do not wish to be adopted, and who have the potential to attain economic self-sufficiency.
- Continuous Care: A small percentage of the Department's wards have severe physical, mental, or emotional handicaps. Most often these children receive services in long-term facilities. The goal for them is the provision of humane continuous care.

The cluster of services provided by the service units to achieve a permanency goal may include counseling, homemaker services, protective day care, foster or residential care, and advocacy. Protective services are provided, arranged for, and monitored until it is deemed appropriate to terminate services according to the needs of the child/family and Department rules and procedures.

Table 23
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Age in All Reports of Abuse/Neglect
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 25,276 Age Group	Percent	N = 10,719 Percent Male	N = 14,376 Percent Female
Under 20	5.1	44.2	55.6
20 - 30	37.1	31.1	68.8
30 - 40	30.8	43.4	56.4
40 - 50	9.9	59.1	40.9
Over 50	4.5	69.5	30.3
Not Identified	8.5	52.3	40.6
TOTAL	100.9	42.4	58.9

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

Table 24
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Race in All Reports of Abuse/Neglect
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 25,276 Race	Percent	N = 10,719 Percent Male	N = 14,376 Percent Female
White	56.5	48.8	51.1
Black	34.8	30.4	69.4
Spanish	6.2	50.7	49.0
Other	.9	51.3	48.3
Not Identified	1.8	39.3	30.5
TOTAL	100.0	42.4	58.9

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count; male and female numbers do not include 181 perpetrators whose sex is not known.

V. Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 1986

A. The Division of Child Protection

The Department of Children and Family Services, through its Division of Child Protection, has received national recognition for successful innovative approaches to child protection investigations. Illinois was one of the first states to implement the use of a risk assessment instrument during child protection investigations. This instrument, along with the Child Protection Investigations Handbook, has been put to good use in other states.

In fiscal year 1986, the Department's achievements in child protection include the following:

- Development of two publications, a Child Death Autopsy Protocol, for coroners and medical examiners, and Guidelines for Differentiating Accidental From Intentional Injuries, for medical professionals.
- Publication of a consumer child protection investigation brochure.
- Initiation of comprehensive changes in the training curriculum for child protection investigators.
- Upgrading of personnel classifications for child protection investigators.
- Installation of an updated computerized telephone system at the child abuse hotline.
- Establishment, for the first time, of a child protection manager for each region, to supervise child protection teams and licensing units in the region.
- Initiation of a major demonstration project in seven regions and the State Central Register, converting all investigative records to microfilm.
- Complete revision of all child protection investigative procedures as well as rules governing the program.

VI. Looking Ahead

The Division of Child Protection has established the following goals for fiscal year 1987:

- Convert new guidelines for child abuse/neglect investigations and licensing complaints to official DCP procedures.
- Develop a protocol for improving the professionalism of division staff.
- Establish an annual schedule for management development and a plan for field administration.
- Train community and Department staff on the new autopsy protocol and child injury guidelines.
- Complete microfilming of all historical records and establish a permanent system of microfilming.
- Standardize case preparation, hearing formats, written reports, and other similar activities.
- Develop a personality inventory profile of child abusers in group care facilities.
- Develop an employee support plan to prevent/reduce on-the-job stress.
- Coordinate and integrate all information on child/family victimization and prepare guidelines and procedures.
- Conduct selected in-depth reviews of the performance of individual child protection investigators and licensing representatives as needed or identified by division administrators.
- Develop a demonstration project using graphology for evaluation of DCP clients.
- Conduct a research project on seasonal variations in Central Register intake and investigative performance.
- Conduct research to assess responsiveness of hotline staff, review workloads and performance expectations, and assist in identifying operational problems.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of the standard of evidence and formulate recommendations.
- Develop a legislative plan for the division for the next session of the Illinois General Assembly.

VII. Prevention

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services has long recognized the need for prevention programs in its struggle to curb child abuse and neglect. With a steady rise in reports of child sexual abuse, and an alarming increase in statistics of physical abuse and neglect, the need for an effective, comprehensive prevention program requires little justification. It is well known that the problem of child maltreatment did not start with the current generation, nor will it end here. People who are abused as children will often become abusive parents, and a growing body of evidence indicates a strong link between adults with serious emotional problems, substance dependencies, and violent antisocial behavior, and children who have suffered non-accidental injury resulting in physical, emotional, and mental impairment. With this in mind, the Department has implemented several prevention programs which are not aimed at treating existing problems, but rather at improving family life by enhancing and promoting the positive qualities and strengths inherent in all individuals and families. Descriptions of the programs follow.

Child Abuse Prevention Fund: Created by the Illinois General Assembly in 1984, this program allows Illinois taxpayers to donate up to $10 ($20 for persons filing joint returns) of their state income tax refunds to support community prevention efforts.

Administered by DCFS, the Child Abuse Prevention Fund has reached approximately 80,000 participants. Services include community education, sexual abuse prevention education, parent helpline, parent aides, parenting training, and peer support groups.

Building Bridges: In an effort to get more schools involved in preventing and reporting sexual abuse, DCFS introduced its Building Bridges program—a model personal protection and sexual abuse prevention program designed for elementary school children. The aim of this project is to provide volunteers and child professionals with a comprehensive, concise, easy-to-use tool for instructing elementary-age children to identify and protect themselves against sexual victimization. DCFS conducted various workshops with parents and school staff in 1985.

In 1986 DCFS purchased sets of the curricula to be placed in school resource libraries and provided training to school personnel in their use. This curriculum series is now available throughout the state for use by schools in meeting their mandate to provide child safety education.

Parents Too Soon/Ounce of Prevention: Concerned with the magnitude and complexity of the issues surrounding teen sexuality, pregnancy, and parenting, a public/private partnership between DCFS and the Pittway Corporation Charitable Foundation emerged in 1982 to establish the Ounce of Prevention Fund for the purpose of preventing child abuse, neglect and other serious parenting problems. Out of this fund came about a model program, Parents Too Soon, to deal specifically with the problems of teen pregnancy.

Under the Parents Too Soon program, a full range of health, nutrition, educational/vocational, and support services are offered to adolescents with the common goal of preventing unplanned/premature pregnancy and the problems associated with it. The Department's components of this program are home visitors to young families with newborn children, day care, and a parenting training and support group. Based upon the success of the original model, the Ounce of Prevention Fund currently supports, monitors, and evaluates 28 comprehensive, community-based Parents Too Soon programs.

Heart to Heart: The Department and the Ounce of Prevention have developed a unique prevention program to prevent the sexual abuse of children of adolescent parents. Implemented through the young mothers' groups currently operated, Heart to Heart provides a variety of information and support services to ensure that these young women have the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent the sexual abuse of their children. It also provides a warm and supportive environment that allows these young mothers to discuss and begin to deal with their own abuse.

Heart to Heart is achieving remarkable success as a prevention and family support program, as well as a research vehicle on sexual abuse issues. It is gaining national recognition.

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